

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00831 221630Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----085714 221631Z /45

O R 221555Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0576
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0831

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON - PROBLEMS WITH SYRIANS AND OTHERS

REF: BEIRUT 1540

1. WHEN I SAW SIILASVUO MORNING MARCH 22, HE WAS ON TOP OF
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND THOROUGHLY PREPARED TO GO TO DAMASCUS
TO URGE SYRIANS PRESSURE PLO TO RESPECT CEASEFIRE, HALT
IRAQI CONVOYS AND ADVANCE TO LITANI RIVER.

2. HE INITIALLY PLANNED TO MAKE TRIP MARCH 23 AND REMARKED
SYRIANS HAD AGREED AT ONCE. WALDHEIM THOUGHT FOR COSMETIC
REASONS, HE SHOULD TALK TO LEBANESE EN ROUTE. SUDDENLY,
SYRIANS, MID-DAY MARCH 22, PROPOSED TRIP BE POSTPONED UNTIL
MARCH 25.

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3. IT IS HARD TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT EFFECT
BOUTROS' ACCOUNT OF ABORTIVE HOSS MISSION (BEIRUT 1540)
WILL HAVE ON SIILASVUO. DURING OUR CONVERSATION, HE
THOUGHT ISRAEL, LEBANON, AND SYRIA WERE ALL INTERESTED
IN HAVING PLO BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. AMBASSADOR
MURPHY IS THE EXPERT AS TO WHETHER THIS IS IN FACT THE
CASE AND WHETHER SYRIANS COULD BE COAXED OR MANEUVERED,

WITH SIILASVUO'S HELP, INTO ADVANCING FROM ZAHIRANI TO
LITANI IF A FIRM TIMETABLE CAN BE WORKED OUT.

4. SIILASVUO IS A VETERAN OF SEVERAL WARS AND MARATHON
NEGOTIATIONS IN ME. HE IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS. ON HIS
RETURN FROM BEIRUT MARCH 21, HE REAMRKED OF GOL, "THEY
ARE SO PLEASANT -- AND SO HELPLESS." QUESTION IS
WHETHER WE SHOULD GIVE SIILASVUO GIST OF BEIRUT 1540
PRIOR TO HIS TRIP OR LET HIM HEAR LEBANESE VIEWS DIRECTLY
FROM BOUTROS.

5. FOR BEIRUT: HE IS WILLING TO MEET AMBASSADOR PARKER DURING HIS
BEIRUT STOPOVER. HE INITALLY PROPOSED TO ARRIVE
0930 AND MEET AT BOUTROS' OFFICE OR AT AIRPORT, HOPING
FM WOULD OPT FOR LATTER. IF AIRPORT ACCEPTABLE, HE
WOULD SET TIME FOR MEETING WITH FM TO ENABLE HIM
HAVE PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER. ALTERNATIVELY,
THEY MIGHT MEET BRIEFLY AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO SIILASVUO'S
DEPARTURE FOR BOUTROS' OFFICE. AMBASSADOR PARKER'S
VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: WE WILL BE IN CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT WITH
SIILASVUO ON UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT. WHAT, IF ANYTHING,
DOES DEPARTMENT WISH ME TO PASS ON PRIOR TO HIS POST-
PONED DAMASCUS TRIP?

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